



## Central South Dakota Outdoor Report

### Wildlife Division – Region 2



#### *Brule/Buffalo Counties*

*Diana Schroeder*



#### **Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below**

The walleye bite has slowed down recently in the Chamberlain area. Fishermen have been catching smaller walleyes 14-16 inches in the Chamberlain area. The walleye bite has slowed down at Ft. Thompson as well. The minimum length restriction is 15 inches with one walleye over 20 inches. The daily possession limit is 4 walleyes. The fish cleaning stations are open in the Chamberlain area and Ft. Thompson. The area between the Interstate Bridge and Railroad Bridge is open to fishing from a boat until December.

Be sure to double check your boat safety equipment (sufficient life jackets for everyone on board, fire extinguisher, and a throw able device) and boat registration before hitting the water.



#### **Hunting Report:**

The 2014 Hunting and Trapping Handbooks are now available!

The September Canada Goose season opened September 1<sup>st</sup> through the 30<sup>th</sup>. Daily limit 15 doves and a possession limit of 45 doves. Be sure to check the boundaries of the open areas in Brule and Buffalo Counties. The boundary includes SD Hwy 34, east of Lees Blvd.; southeast to SD Hwy 34; east 7 miles to 350<sup>th</sup> Ave.; south to I-90 on 350<sup>th</sup> Ave.; south and east on SD Hwy 50 to Geddes. An annual small game or combination license, state migratory bird certification, and federal waterfowl stamp are required for hunting this season. Canada Geese have been reported in the Southeast portion of Brule County near Torey Lake.

Duck season in the Low Plains zone opened September 27<sup>th</sup> east of Hwy 50. The High Plain Zone opens October 11<sup>th</sup> which includes west of Hwy 50. There has not been many ducks migrating through the area yet with this warm weather at the end of September.

Dove season opened September 1<sup>st</sup> until November 9<sup>th</sup>. Daily limit 15; possession limit 45. Dove shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. A person may not hunt mourning doves on or within 50 yards of a public road. A person may not shoot a mourning dove unless the bird is flying. A person may not hunt with a shotgun capable of holding more than 3 shells. A small game license and migratory bird certification is required. The doves are starting to leave the area due to colder weather.

Prairie chicken and grouse season opened September 20<sup>th</sup>. Landowners have reported seeing increased grouse numbers in the Chamberlain area this year.

Pheasant brood routes numbers have increased 76% more than last year state-wide. The resident-only pheasant season opens October 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>. The regular pheasant season opens October 18<sup>th</sup>.

Youth/Mentor deer season opened September 13<sup>th</sup>.

Bow season for deer opened September 27<sup>th</sup> state wide.

Fall turkey season opens November 1<sup>st</sup>. There have been reports of turkeys on Boyer GPA recently.

## **Campbell County**

*Doug DeLaRoi*



**Fishing Report:** *See Missouri River report below*

Small lakes have had very little use with no reports.



**Hunting Report:**

Good numbers of doves and geese in the area.

## **Corson/Dewey Counties**

*Shawn Madison:*



**Fishing Report:**

**Pudwell Dam:** Good fish populations including several year classes of walleye, largemouth bass, crappie, and perch. Fishing activity has been low.

**Morristown East:** No activity but stocking efforts past two years has been successful for largemouth and crappies. Fish size is small. Some northern pike.

**Morristown West:** No activity. perch stockings have been successful ranging from 8-10 inches.

**Trail City Dam:** Little to no activity and a lot of small northern pike showed up in surveys.

**Little Moreau #1:** Activity low but casting lures are good for pike and bass. Some large crappies and bluegill.

**Little Moreau #2:** Catching nice size rainbow trout on lures and corn with salmon eggs. Stocked 1200 Rainbow trout in the beginning of June 2014.

**Isabel Lake:** Some activity. Walleyes being caught using trolling crank baits and spinners. Largemouth bass have been biting. Nice population of bluegill, some large being caught. Fish from the new fishing dock.

**Eagle Butte Dam:** Little activity. Year classes of bluegill look very good ranging from 6-8 inches. Bass numbers are very good as well as perch



### **Hunting Report:**

Dove season opened on September 1st. Most doves have left the area. Unit 1 Canada Goose opened on September 1<sup>st</sup> as well. Lots of local geese in the area. Hunters should have plenty of luck. Do your scouting and don't forget to ask permission. Grouse opened this weekend, hatch was fair but numbers are still low. Hunters had mixed success but overall a good experience. 70 percent of the harvest was young birds. Some reports of partridge in spots.

## ***Charles Mix/Douglas Counties***

*Jeff Martin*



### **Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below**

Anglers are still reporting low success. Cooler weather is upon us and should help cool the water temp and hopefully spark the bite.



### **Hunting Report:**

Cooler weather this week should make for better hunting conditions. Scouting is the key no matter what the quarry. There are still some doves around to be had, but with this weather they won't last long. Local ducks are still out there, get out and get some before they head out. Archery deer season is underway.

## ***Gregory County***

*Hans Walleser*



### **Fishing Report:**

No Report



### **Hunting Report:**

Archery deer season opened Saturday. Temperatures were in the upper 80's and keep deer movement minimal. South central South Dakota is still recovering from EHD in some areas. Deer numbers seem to be rebounding and there were many does with twin fawns this spring. The key to early season success is to target food sources as deer are still very

predictable. Set up between bedding areas and feeding areas in the early morning or late evening. Make sure you tag your deer on the leg and validate the tag by notching the date and signing it. If you were unable to scout during the spring and summer, you will have a harder time hunting. Wait until the rut in November when bucks are cruising all day.

Grouse season is open and there are plenty of birds around, including birds on Walk In Areas and state owned lands. Limit is 3 daily, 15 in possession.

Dove season is also open. There are a few doves around yet. State migratory bird certificate and a small game license is required.

Please do not drive down trails on Game Production Areas after rainfall. Park your vehicle and walk so you don't need a tow.

There is a Huntsafe class at the Burke Elementary School on October 4 and 5. Class starts at 8:30 AM on the 4<sup>th</sup>. Students must be 11 years of age and please bring a sack lunch. All materials are provided.

Any questions or concerns may be directed to Conservation Officer Hans Walleser at 605-775-2475 or PO Box 433 Burke, SD 57523. Have fun. Be safe.

## *Hyde/Hand Counties*

*Cory Flor*



### **Fishing Report: *See Missouri River report below***

Lots of small bass are being caught at Lake Louise but not much for size. Anglers have also been catching lots of bass and perch at Jones Lake.



### **Hunting Report:**

The waterfowl season opened on Sept. 27 and hunters were having good success. The water is receding but if you can find water, you can find birds. A lot of the shallow wetlands in the area have dried up. Hunters had a mixed bag of green wing and blue wing teal, gadwall, shovelers and mallards.

## *Hughes County*

*John Murphy*



### **Fishing Report:**

Fishing from West Bend to Spring Creek has been slow, catching some catfish in the Oahe tailrace and occasional walleye at night on plugs.



### **Hunting Report:**

Archery deer hunters have some success hunting tree belts, hunting will become better as weather cools down. Grouse hunters doing fair on nice days. Youth Pheasant hunters should see plenty of birds if hunting cover next to food plots.

## ***Jones County***

*Dan Dobesh*



### **Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below**

No Report



### **Hunting Report:**

No Report

## ***Lyman County***

*Dan Dobesh*



### **Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below**

No Report



### **Hunting Report:**

No Report

## Potter County

Brad Saltsman



### **Fishing Report: *See Missouri River report below:***

Potts Dam – No Activity,

Lake Hurley –No Activity

Simon Dam – No Activity.

Missouri River – fishing is very slow from Swan Creek south to the Sully County line. Anglers are reporting decent catches of walleye in the Morreau river. Salmon fishing is picking up in the Whitlock Bay area.



### **Hunting Report:**

Dove – Hunters are finding few doves in Potter county and Walworth County

Goose – Hunting is better in the northeast corner of Potter county around the Tolstoy area. Several small lakes and sloughs have been holding resident geese.

Grouse – There are very few grouse in Potter and southern Walworth counties. Hunters will find the grouse in NW Potter and SW Walworth counties.

Deer – Archery Deer started last weekend. Potter County has a good deer population.

Antelope – Antelope season begins this weekend. There are several small herds scattered throughout southern and western Potter County and a few small

## Stanley County

Josh Thompson



### **Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below.**

Fishermen are reminded that the daily limit for walleye is 4, of which only 1 of those 4 walleye may be 20 inches or longer.

The minimum length limit for walleye caught on Lake Sharpe is 15 inches.

**Twin Dams** – Little fishing activity observed.

**Hayes Lake** – Little fishing activity observed.

**Ft. Pierre Nat. Grasslands** – Fishermen have been having some luck catching crappie and perch.

**Lake Oahe** – The Cheyenne River continues to be the place to catch walleye. However, the action has started to slow down considerably in the past week.

**Lake Sharpe** – Slow fishing activity. Catfish bite has been pretty good at the mouth of the Bad River and in the tailraces.



### **Hunting Report:**

**Grouse** – Good amount of grouse on the Fort Pierre Grasslands and Stanley County Walk-In-Areas. Early morning and evening seem to be the best times to be out.

**Dove** – Not as many birds around. There are still some in the area, but expect numbers to continue to dwindle with the arrival of cooler temperatures.

For any further information, Game, Fish & Parks hunting and fishing handbooks are available at local licensing agents; or you can visit the SD Game, Fish & Parks website at [www.gfp.sd.gov](http://www.gfp.sd.gov).

## *Sully County*

Andy Schmahl



### **Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below.**

Cottonwood: No Activity

Lake Oahe: Fishing for walleyes in Sully County is still very slow. Most fishermen are going way up into the Cheyenne River to find walleyes.



### **Hunting Report:**

Duck: Duck Hunting in Sully County is pretty poor due to a lack of any shallow water.

Goose: Goose Hunting in Sully County is also very poor due to a lack of birds and water.

Youth Pheasant: Youth Pheasant hunting runs from October 4<sup>th</sup> through October 8<sup>th</sup>. Conditions should be much better than last year and bird numbers have also risen substantially.

## *Tripp/Todd/Mellette Counties*

Matt Hill



### **Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below**

No Report



### **Hunting Report:**

No Report

## Walworth County

Doug DeLaRoi/Brad Saltsman



### **Fishing Report:** *See Missouri River report below*

Small lakes have seen little use with some success catching small perch and bullheads.



### **Hunting Report:**

Good numbers of doves and geese in the area.

## **Missouri River report:**

### *Lake Oahe and Lake Sharpe*

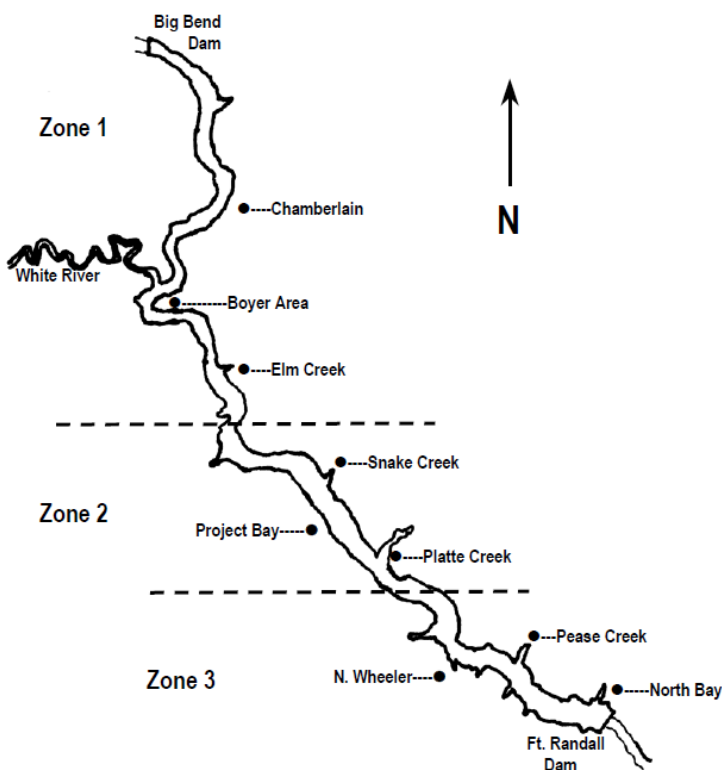
Kyle Potter

#### **Lake Oahe**

No Report

#### **Lake Sharpe**

No Report



### *Lake Francis Case*

Rachel Tribble

Zone 1 – The walleye bite has been tough throughout the upper third of the reservoir. Anglers are catching some smaller fish, and very few limits are being brought in. The walleye bite has been slightly better in the Crow Creek Area, with a few limits being brought in.

Zone 2 – No fishing activity observed in this area.

Zone 3 – No fishing activity observed in this area.



Reminder: Walleye/Sauger daily limit is 4 fish per day.  
The minimum length limit is 15" and the daily limit  
may include no more than one walleye/sauger 20" or  
longer.